

Remarks:

This amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay.

The specification has been amended to eliminate some minor obvious errors. No new matter whatsoever has been added.

The drawing has been reworked. The process illustrated in original FIGS. 3-6 has been condensed into a lucidly labeled FIG. 3. There is no new matter because everything in current FIG. 3 was in original FIGS. 3-6 and the specification. FIGS. 7 and 8 have been relabeled as FIGS. 4 and 5 and the Specification has been amended to refer to the redone drawing. Again, no new matter whatsoever has been added.

Claims 1-17 have been rejected under §102(e) as being anticipated by McCollom, US 2003/0120769.

For further distinguishing over McCollom, independent claim 1, independent claim 9 and dependent claims 4 and 12 have been amended to specify that for each sub-path "the respective length in number of hops" is identified (step d of the Office Action), and that connectivity contributions are determined "as a function of the relative length in number of hops" (step f of the Office Action) and of the traffic volume.

Such features are disclosed at page 16, lines 14-19 and lines 23-29, and at page 17, lines 12-16 of the description as originally filed.

Moreover claim 1 of the invention discloses (step g of the Office Action) the step of determining for each autonomous system the total connectivity values by accumulating the connectivity contributions, and, at step h, of obtaining for the provider of interest the total connectivity values by accumulating the total connectivity values determined for the autonomous systems.

For each provider of interest, values of the total connectivity are found (connectivity index of current FIGS. 4 and 5).

Therefore the total connectivity values are a function:  
of the relative length in number of hops of each  
subpath, and  
of the traffic volume of each subpath.

It is respectfully submitted that the steps indicated above for performing connectivity evaluation are not disclosed by McCollom.

In fact, none of the passages of McCollom cited by the Examiner discloses that the determination of the length in number of hops of each subpath extracted for each autonomous system.

Further, none of the passages of McCollom cited by the Examiner discloses determining connectivity contributions as a

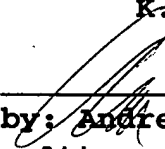
function of the relative length in number of hops of each subpath and of the traffic volume of each sub path.

In fact McCollom only teaches, at step 210 [0028], to count for each AS number the overall data flow volume, i.e the traffic volume (see [0073] and Table 5).

Thus the features of amended independent claim 1, independent claim 9 and dependent claims 4 and 12 are not disclosed in McCollom. The rejection on this reference must fall.

If only minor problems that could be corrected by means of a telephone conference stand in the way of allowance of this case, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned to make the necessary corrections.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Enclosure: Request for extension (three months)  
Corrected version  
Substitute Specification  
Replacement drawing (5 sheets)